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FOR ACTION

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING FOR SHORT-DURATION PROGRAMME COOPERATION**

Palestinian children and women in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and West Bank and Gaza

SUMMARY

The present document contains recommendations for funding from general resources and supplementary funds for short-duration programme cooperation for Palestinian children and women. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the following amounts from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and the following amounts in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 1998 to 2000:

Programme	Amount (United States dollars)		Duration
	General resources	Supplementary funds	
Palestinian children and women in:			
Jordan	600 000	600 000	1998-2000
Lebanon	1 050 000	1 500 000	1998-2000
Syrian Arab Republic	600 000	600 000	1998-2000
West Bank and Gaza	2 550 000	11 400 000	1998-2000

* E/ICEF/1997/20.

** The figures provided in the present document are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1996. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1997 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.18).

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BASIC DATA
(1995 unless otherwise stated)

	Jordan	Lebanon	Syrian Arab Republic	West Bank and Gaza (1996)
Child population (thousands, under 18 years)	680 a/	176 a/	186 a/	1,215
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	37	49	49	36
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	30-40	42	40	28
Underweight (%, 0-3 years old)	-	-	9	4.4-5.0
Maternal mortality rate	150 b/	40	93	70-80
Primary school enrolment(%, gross)	-	-	-	-
Literacy (% male/female)	93/83	88/77	93/82	91/76
Access to safe water (%)	-	-	45	79
Access to health services (%)	-	100 a/	-	53
GNP per capita	-	$880	$1,500	$1,700
One-year-olds fully immunized against (%):				
tuberculosis:	-	100 a/	88	100 c/
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus:	89 a/	100 a/	92	96
measles:	90 a/	100 a/	95	82
poliomyelitis:	88 a/	100 a/	85	95
Pregnant women immunized against (%):				
tetanus:	83 a/	90 a/	65	34

a/ Applies only to population registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

b/ A 1996 survey by the Ministry of Health of Jordan and the United States Agency for International Development found the maternal mortality rate in Jordan to be 55 per 100,000 live births.

c/ Six-year old children.

Introduction

1. In 1995, the Executive Board approved programmes of cooperation for Palestinian children and women in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and West Bank and Gaza (E/ICEF/1995/P/L.30) for the period 1996 to 1997; in 1993, it approved a programme of assistance to Palestinian children and women in Jordan for the period 1994-1997. In the light of the continuing peace process, a three-year, short-duration programme for all four programmes is being proposed for 1998-2000. The proposal will harmonize the programme cycles and facilitates monitoring of the goals of the World Summit for Children. The proposed programmes were prepared taking into account the priority needs identified by updated situation analyses, lessons learned from past cooperation and strategy meetings held with counterparts, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and partner agencies.

The situation of children and women

2. While their situations and living conditions vary from country to country, Palestinian children and women in the region often live in difficult conditions and lack many basic rights and services. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is the lead United Nations agency responsible for Palestinians, and is a key partner in the UNICEF programmes.

3. More than half of the Palestinians in the region live in West Bank and Gaza, where the current population of 2.3 million is expected to increase to 3 million in 2000. There are 1.4 million Palestinians registered with UNRWA in Jordan (the largest group of Palestinians living outside West Bank and Gaza) and 350,000 in the Syrian Arab Republic, with 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. The annual population growth rate remains high and the profile of the population is young, with, for example, 47 per cent of the total population in West Bank and Gaza under 15 years of age.

4. There is severe economic hardship among all of these populations, with many living near or below the poverty line. This vulnerable population has been further affected by economic recession in the region and by high levels of unemployment or underemployment, especially among youth. The rate of women's participation in the labour force is low and dependency ratios are thus high, leaving families very vulnerable in terms of being able to meet their basic needs. In Lebanon, for example, 10 per cent of Palestinian refugees are enrolled with UNRWA as special hardship cases, as their households have no male old enough to work and are headed by women.

5. Health indicators highlight the need for greater attention, especially to sustainability. The leading causes of infant death among Palestinian children are low birth weight and prematurity, congenital malformations, acute respiratory infections (ARI), gastroenteritis and birth trauma. The prevalence of ARI and diarrhoea is high, especially for children living in congested conditions in the camps. The use rate for oral rehydration therapy is low. According to UNRWA, 46 per cent of registered children are anaemic. The prevalence of iodine deficiency disorders (IDD) is an issue of concern and salt available in West Bank and Gaza is not iodized. Maternal mortality rates range from 40 to 93 per 100,000 live births, highlighting the need for better quality of health care for women and improved case management. HIV/AIDS is an increasing problem.

6. Primary school enrolment rates are over 90 per cent and teacher training has improved significantly in recent years. Greater attention is needed to girls' education. The UNRWA school system provides refugees with a good standard of education, particularly in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. A lack of infrastructure is exacerbated by the high population growth rate. Many UNRWA schools and schools in West Bank and Gaza operate on more than one shift. There is a need for sufficient numbers of school buildings and basic infrastructures, including classrooms, equipment and recreational space, and of well-trained teachers. The quality of instruction is low, curricula need to be brought up to date and high repetition rates are a problem. More children need to be enrolled in kindergarten and child-care centres.

7. Data on the status of women indicates that while overall literacy is below 85 per cent, female literacy rates vary from 76 to 83 percent (most literacy rates range from 88 to 93 per cent). In the refugee camps, few women serve on decision-making bodies. The situation of girls and women has often been bound by early marriage, unequal educational opportunities and economic and political powerlessness. The enforcement of laws related to children and women needs to be reviewed.

8. UNRWA provides most basic health and education services for Palestinians in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic and provides schooling for about 12 per cent of the primary schools in Jordan. In West Bank and Gaza, UNRWA covers both health and education for the 40 per cent of the population who are refugees, in coordination with the Palestinian Authority. UNRWA is the only provider of elementary education for Palestinian children in Lebanon. UNICEF cooperates closely with UNRWA, providing the vaccines, needles, syringes and other supplies that are used in UNRWA health centres, as well as providing support in the form of training for health staff of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS). Vaccines and training support are provided through the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Health in West Bank and Gaza. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNICEF provided significant support to UNRWA programmes for the control of diarrhoeal diseases (CDD).

9. A large number of Palestinian children have been exposed to violence. A study of Palestinian children in Gaza in 1993 revealed behavioural problems ranging from depression, sleep disorders and tension to other emotional maladjustments. Child labour, especially in the informal sector, is a growing problem; in Lebanon, a 1996 survey found that 38 per cent of working children are subject to physical violence.

Lessons learned from previous cooperation

10. In Jordan, recent discussions with the Government about the programme for Palestinian children and women have underscored official concern that this programme not target Jordanians of Palestinian origin and exclusively, but rather be a complementary component of the UNICEF programme of cooperation in Jordan (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.10/Add.1).

11. The UNICEF allocation of $200,000 per year for the Palestinian programme in Jordan is 23 per cent of the Jordan country programme budget and is small in comparison to the UNRWA budget for Jordan. The UNICEF component for Palestinians in Jordan can be of significance only if it is used for well-focused inputs to assist children and women, in close cooperation with the Government and with UNRWA. For example, a committee established in 1989 by the Government, comprising government officials in the fields of education and health, UNRWA, NGOs and UNICEF, developed unified monitoring and reporting systems for the health programme interventions, a unified training mechanism for teachers and health workers and a unified system of community outreach for providing Palestinian mothers with health education.

12. Ongoing reviews of cooperation with ministerial counterparts, UNRWA and NGOs have revealed the need to: (a) target more systematically underserved low-income urban areas, where the majority of the country's poor are concentrated; (b) increase the level of resources used for capacity-building, empowerment and advocacy in order to improve the quality of basic social services, raise public awareness levels and prioritize children's and women's rights issues; (c) emphasize the focus of early childhood development (ECD) efforts on promoting better parenting to reach more children; (d) focus primary education efforts on issues of quality and relevance; (e) adapt community-based approaches to alleviating poverty and meeting local needs, especially of youth; and (f) continue monitoring the status of children and women.

13. In Lebanon, the most difficult aspect of UNICEF work in the Palestinian programme is the absence of an official government counterpart. A great deal of programme implementation is undertaken by UNICEF, in coordination with Palestinian NGOs and popular committees that have proven to be reliable partners. In spite of significant progress made to strengthen the management and operational capacities of the Palestinian NGOs, much remains to be done in this regard.

14. In line with the recommendations of an external evaluation of the Lebanon programme (commissioned by UNICEF in March 1997), UNICEF will strengthen its monitoring, supervision and follow-up activities as part of implementing the new programme.

15. In the Syrian Arab Republic, reviews of the health programme have indicated that it accords insufficient attention to women's health, ARI control and environmental health; placed too much emphasis on material support to health and not enough on activities affecting the quality of health care; and that UNICEF lacked systematic cooperation with PRCS and other NGOs addressing the health needs of underserved Palestinians outside the official refugee camps.

16. ECD programmes focused on the provision of support to NGO-run kindergartens and day-care centres for Palestinian children with limited coverage. Support was extended to in-service and training programmes for kindergarten staff and for provision of basic educational material and playground equipment to Palestinian kindergartens. Communication activities aimed at reaching caregivers with key ECD messages were initiated on a limited scale. There is a need to develop and implement a media-based better parenting project for wider coverage.

17. Support to women's development focused on women's vocational training. UNICEF cooperated with the Government Organisation for Palestinian Refugees (GOPAR), Palestinian NGOs and the Syrian Women's General Union in conducting vocational training courses for women. The coverage of the vocational training activities, was limited, however, and the programme did not sufficiently stress the application of vocational skills for the expansion of women's access to credit and income-generating opportunities.

18. In West Bank and Gaza, the Palestinian Authority has made a strong political commitment to children by endorsing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and preparing a national programme of action (NPA). Thirty per cent of a planned public sector investment programme has been earmarked for social sector development. The Authority has also established a Secretariat for Children within the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, a High Council for Children and a child monitoring unit at the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

19. To respond to the historic yet complex and difficult process of greater autonomy and economic development now underway, the best investment UNICEF can make is in capacity-building for planning and management of the social sector, to help ensure, as infrastructures are built, effective use of resources in favour of children. This will require investment in human resources, combined with the flexibility to address an unstable situation; it will also require intensive training at several levels (community and institutions), advocacy, knowledge dissemination and networking to standardize policies affected by the fragmentation of the social sector. Cooperation with NGOs and the media should be strengthened, thus extending capacity-building to local institutions and enabling them to reach communities during security closures.

20. As part of this effort, UNICEF will work to help clarify issues of gender equality so they receive more attention. Gender mainstreaming will be promoted as a policy. Cooperation with international, regional and Palestinian women's organizations should be developed. An integrated approach to education is needed, including ECD, and primary and non-formal education that focus especially on girls and women, in addition to community-level health education projects, all involving the participation of different ministries and NGOs.

A. Palestinian children and women in Jordan

Recommended programme cooperation, 1998-2000

Estimated annual expenditure, 1998-2000

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1998	1999	2000	Total
General resources				
Maternal and child health	50	50	50	150
Early childhood development	50	50	50	150
Primary education	25	25	25	75
Community empowerment	75	75	75	225
Subtotal	200	200	200	600
Supplementary funds				
Maternal and child health	20	20	20	60
Early childhood development	65	65	60	190
Primary education	30	30	30	90
Community empowerment	85	85	90	260
Subtotal	200	200	200	600
Total	400	400	400	1 200

21. The programme will focus on four main programme areas: maternal and child health (MCH); primary education; ECD; and community empowerment. In recognition of the fact that Palestinians do not constitute a separate entity in Jordan, the programmes were formulated in the context of Jordan's NPA. The overall objectives of the programme will be to: (a) support implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; (b) sustain progress towards the goals for children for the decade, and ensure that the goals are reached in the refugee camps and in low-income urban areas; (c) help the Government and UNRWA to establish and maintain quality standards, especially in primary health care (PHC) and education; and (d) develop replicable models for sustainable development at the community level, with a particular emphasis on refugee camps and low-income urban areas. The primary strategies will be capacity-building, advocacy and empowerment, with some limited service delivery.

22. The objectives of the MCH programme will be to: (a) improve the quality of MCH care in government, UNRWA and NGO health facilities; (b) increase health awareness among mothers and other caregivers, especially of reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs); (c) accelerate progress in controlling ARI; (d) provide skills for early detection of mild and moderate disabilities in children; and (e) promote a "baby-friendly" environment in hospitals and promote exclusive breast-feeding for the first six months.

23. The objectives of the ECD programme will be to: (a) provide families and other child-caregivers with key skills for better parenting skills; (b) expand access to and improve the quality of ECD facilities in the refugee camps and

low-income urban areas; and (c) expand access in refugee camps and low-income urban areas to safe play space for children. The promotion of better parenting will be the main focus of the ECD programme, using various media to communicate key messages on how to improve the care and stimulus given to young children. Efforts to expand access to ECD facilities will focus on mobilizing and supporting local groups and NGOs in establishing kindergartens. The possibility of support to the establishment of "home" kindergartens, where local mothers are recruited, trained and equipped to provide care to a number of local children in their homes or in community centres, will also be considered. Efforts to improve the quality of kindergartens will focus on teacher training programmes, curriculum development and developing kindergarten grounds and other designated locations as safe play areas.

24. The primary education programme will aim to create a positive learning environment and improve the quality and relevance of learning in both government and UNRWA schools. UNICEF will be a catalyst for primary education innovation and reform, providing "seed" support to relevant initiatives and leveraging other resources for their wide-scale replication. Support will be continued to mainstream the Global Education Initiative philosophy, methodology and materials into the Ministry of Education's and UNRWA curricula, textbooks and teacher training programmes. Innovative approaches for reaching and providing schooling to children in refugee camps and low-income urban areas outside the education system will be promoted.

25. The community empowerment programme will aim to ensure that the goals for the decade are reached and sustained in the refugee camps and low-income urban areas, through mobilizing and assisting communities to identify their own needs and develop strategies to address these needs in an integrated and sustainable fashion. Building on current pilot experiences in low-income urban communities and working through local community structures, UNICEF will support development of local responses to such concerns as women's participation in decision-making and the labour force; maternal, child and adolescent health; the situation of youth; household access to credit; children's early development and recreation; and children with special needs. The main counterparts will be the Ministry of Social Development, which runs a network of community development centres in needy areas, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, responsible for the provision of basic services in urban areas, and UNRWA. Other groups involved in social development include the Queen Alia Fund, the Noor al Hussein Foundation, and a number of international NGOs.

26. The programme for Palestinians in Jordan will be managed as an integral part of the Jordan country programme. The country office management team will have the responsibility for development, implementation and monitoring of both programmes. Programme costs are pro-rated in time and reflected accordingly in the integrated budget for the country programme. Staff assigned to this programme will have deep knowledge of the Palestinian situation and experience and ability to work with NGOs in a participatory manner.

B. Palestinian children and women in Lebanon

Recommended programme cooperation, 1998-2000

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1998	1999	2000	Total
General resources				
Health	100	100	100	300
Child protection and development	120	120	120	360
Women in development	80	80	80	240
Advocacy and planning	50	50	50	150
Subtotal	350	350	350	1 050
Supplementary funds				
Health	100	100	100	300
Child protection and development	200	200	200	600
Women in development	50	50	50	150
Water and sanitation	150	150	150	450
Subtotal	500	500	500	1 500
Total	850	850	850	2 550

27. The programme responds to the priority needs of Palestinian children and women in Lebanon as established by Palestinian philanthropic associations and popular committees. It will be implemented in cooperation with UNRWA, PRCS, the General Union of Palestinian Women (GUPW), popular committees and a network of Palestinian philanthropic associations and international NGOs.

28. The programme has four components: health; child protection and development; women in development; and water and sanitation. Advocacy, planning and monitoring and evaluation activities will be integral to each component. Using a mix of service delivery and capacity-building, the programme aims to build on past experience and empower communities to meet their children's physical, emotional and psycho-social needs, and to build the capacity of young community workers and mobilize them to participate fully in camp activities.

29. Under the health programme, UNICEF will continue to provide vaccines, syringes, needles and cold-chain equipment to UNRWA in order to sustain vaccination coverage for all six antigens at more than 95 per cent, with the long-term objective of reducing infant, child and maternal mortality. For MCH services, UNICEF will focus on capacity-building of PRCS personnel through training of their health workers and para-medical personnel. Traditional birth attendants will be trained in safe motherhood practices and referral of at-risk mothers. Interventions focusing on prevention of diarrhoeal diseases and the rational use of drugs will be addressed. Awareness-raising campaigns on health-related issues will be undertaken in all the camps in cooperation with PRCS and Medical Aid for Palestinians. A mobile educational unit of health personnel will provide information to mothers and youth on breast-feeding, proper hygiene, a healthy lifestyle, the hazards of smoking, high-risk behaviour, accidents and AIDS. UNRWA health personnel will continue to

undertake training and awareness-raising campaigns on ARI, and UNICEF and UNRWA will use exchange of information and coordination on ARI to complement each other's health services.

30. In an effort to improve the capacity of child-caregivers to meet the growth and development needs of young children, the child protection and development programme will support upgrading of parental skills and the quality of pre-school day care services, both at home and in the community, through regular meetings between parents and pre-school educators and training of pre-school teachers. To support the 19 per cent of Palestinian children aged 6-12 years who are school drop-outs, working or looking for jobs, UNICEF will provide literacy sessions and vocational training to allow them to retain and build on the knowledge acquired during their time in school. Activities will be carried out in close coordination with UNRWA and Palestinian NGOs. UNICEF will also promote social acceptance of children with disability in the community through social mobilization and orientation. General resources will be used for activities for children in need of special protection (initiation of literacy classes, summer camps and social reform of delinquents) in half the camps. Supplementary funds will be used to extend these activities to all 12 camps. In a related effort involving Palestinian juvenile delinquents, UNICEF, in cooperation with the Lebanese judicial authorities, will train 35 social workers who will follow-up these delinquents' progress by visiting their families periodically.

31. The women in development programme will provide women with education and vocational skills, thus enhancing their self-esteem and empowering them to participate more effectively in the economic life of their community. In cooperation with GUPW and local popular committees, UNICEF will continue to support small-scale, cooperative income-generating and marketing activities for Palestinian families, with a focus on female-headed households. Strategies to increase adult literacy will be pursued by raising women's awareness of the importance of education, stressing the fact that illiteracy perpetuates poverty.

32. Water supply and sanitation activities, which will be funded entirely from supplementary funds, seek to improve the quality and quantity of drinking water and to promote sanitary practices in displacement centres. The project aims to maintain existing water and sewer networks in the centres, with the cooperation of local committees. This will be done by organizing community-managed water supply and sanitation schemes. Professional assistance and training will be provided to popular committees for raising public awareness and implementing water and sanitation projects.

33. Advocacy and planning efforts will focus on improving further the situation of women and children by creating greater awareness of the decade goals and by empowering the community with information and knowledge to achieve them. In cooperation with counterparts, training workshops and summer camps will be organized at district level to build capacities and disseminate information. Community workers will receive training in health, hygiene, nutrition, protection of the environment and healthy life-style promotion.

34. Projects will be monitored systematically on a trimester basis by programme managers, UNICEF staff and their counterparts and community workers. Monitoring will emphasize achievement of objectives and cost-effectiveness. Constraints, if any, will be spelled out and corrective measures implemented. An evaluation to be undertaken in the year will focus on achievement of the decade goals, using studies and surveys as appropriate. In addition to UNRWA and the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF will make specific efforts to work closely with other agencies, NGOs and donors, as appropriate.

C. Palestinian children and women in the Syrian Arab Republic

Recommended programme cooperation, 1998-2000

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1998	1999	2000	Total
General resources				
Health	74	74	74	222
Education	100	100	100	300
Cross-sectoral costs	26	26	26	78
Subtotal	200	200	200	600
Supplementary funds				
Health	100	100	100	300
Education	100	100	100	300
Subtotal	200	200	200	600
Total	400	400	400	1 200

35. The proposed programme will have components for health, education and women in development and will continue to support the achievement of the goals set for the Palestinian community in the Syrian Arab Republic for the end of the decade. The programme aims to: (a) raise caregivers' awareness of children's development needs and rights; (b) target systematically unregistered Palestinian who receive fewer services from UNRWA or government social services; (c) strengthen linkages with, and build the capacity of, local Palestinian NGOs and community organizations; and (d) expand the knowledge and information base concerning the Palestinian community in the Syrian Arab Republic.

36. Cooperation in the health sector will focus on five priority health projects: ARI control; safe motherhood; environmental health; HIV/AIDS; and disability among children. At the same time, UNICEF will ensure that past child survival interventions in the areas of CDD control and immunization are sustained.

37. UNICEF support to ARI control will focus on health education for families and training courses for doctors and nurses at health centres, focusing on early diagnosis and compliance with standard case management. UNICEF will continue to support UNRWA safe motherhood programmes through provision of tetanus toxoid vaccine and training of doctors at health centres in prenatal care and identification of high-risk pregnancies. Promotion of breast-feeding will be a major concern: Palestine Hospital, one of the PRCS facilities, will be upgraded to "baby-friendly" status. Environmental health will be promoted through raising families' and students' awareness of hygiene. Also, UNICEF will provide UNRWA with chloride for water chlorination inside and outside the health centres, and also provide 15 health centres (five per year) with water tanks. HIV/AIDS will be addressed through health education activities for secondary school children. UNICEF will also continue to promote cooperation and experience exchange on HIV/AIDS programmes with UNRWA, the Ministry of Health and NGOs; UNICEF will support the production of educational material for use by trainers, teachers,

students and the Palestinian community. UNICEF will work in coordination with UNRWA to prevent disability among children by strengthening the family health programme and supporting rehabilitation centres. A national study on disability among children is planned for 1997, to be undertaken by the Ministry of Health and the Central Bureau of Statistics in coordination with UNICEF. This study, will also help to identify types of disabilities among Palestinian children and determine the magnitude of the disability problem. In a number of MCH programmes, UNICEF will work closely with both the United Nations Population Fund and WHO.

38. As part of the health programme, supplementary funds will be sought to support the upgrading of solid waste disposal equipment for three Palestinian camps in Damascus and to assist the Palestinian community in improving potable water and sanitation.

39. The education programme focuses on ECD, primary education and women in development. The ECD project involves the production and dissemination of a series of videos and accompanying guidebooks designed to enhance caregiver's knowledge about ECD. GOPAR, in cooperation with NGOs, is responsible for the expansion and upgrading of ECD facilities as well as safe play grounds. UNICEF, in conjunction with GOPAR and local Palestinian NGOs, will continue to support in-service kindergarten teacher training programmes and provide basic equipment and supplies for newly established kindergartens and safe playgrounds. UNICEF will also continue its cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the areas of primary education and ECD.

40. The primary school/global education initiative seeks to make positive changes in the way teachers teach and interact with learners and in the way learners learn. This project, which was started in the Syrian Arab Republic in 1995, is currently in its first phase. The Ministry of Education has initiated a revision of the grade 1 curriculum in the light of global education concepts. Beginning in 1998, UNICEF and UNRWA will work together to promote global education in Palestinian primary schools, initially in a number of primary schools run by UNRWA. Teachers and supervisors from selected schools will be trained to teaching the global education concept.

41. The women in development project will aim to support vocational training of 300 Palestinian women per year in professions determined by a survey of the labour market. The programme will use this opportunity to provide an orientation on basic life skills. In addition, training will be provided to women leaders on the administration, finance and supervision of income-generating projects. To overcome existing deficiencies, UNICEF will work with UNRWA to revise the training programme to incorporate skills on women's access to credit and income-generating activities. UNICEF will also work with UNRWA in establishing group-guaranteed savings and loans schemes taking advantage of the skills developed. Direct support will be extended to such income-generating activities as carpet mending, traditional dress-making and production of children's clothes and toys; this project, which is currently operating with great success in one camp, will be expanded to additional camps where research suggests the women are interested and a market demand exists. The trained women will serve as community focal points for matters related to the feasibility, development and implementation of income-generating projects. Relevant cooperation with both the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) will continue. Supplementary funds will be sought to strengthen and support the vocational training for Palestinians women in the area of income-generation.

D. Palestinian children and women in West Bank and Gaza

Recommended programme cooperation, 1998-2000

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1998	1999	2000	Total
General resources				
Advocacy and capacity-building	180	180	180	540
Health and nutrition	220	220	220	660
Basic education	230	230	230	690
Cross-sectoral costs	220	220	220	660
Subtotal	850	850	850	2 550
Supplementary funds				
Advocacy and capacity-building	800	800	800	2 400
Health and nutrition	2 000	2 000	2 000	6 000
Basic education	1 000	1 000	1 000	3 000
Subtotal	3 800	3 800	3 800	11 400
Total	4 650	4 650	4 650	13 950

42. This programme recommendation is the result of a participatory process involving the Palestinian Authority, NGOs, other United Nations agencies, the donor community and professional institutions in West Bank and Gaza. The programme recognizes the need for continuity with the current programme and for a flexible approach to respond to needs for capacity-building, policy formulation and institutional development in a transition period.

43. The overall objectives for Palestinian children, youth and women in West Bank and Gaza to the year 2000 are set out in the NPA, which sees investment in social services for children as essential to the success of the peace-building effort. The objectives of the UNICEF programme have been formulated within the framework of the Convention on the Right of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as the NPA. The overall strategy is to develop the capacity of the Palestinian Authority to consolidate, achieve and sustain as well as to monitor progress towards the goals of the World Summit for Children. In particular, the programme aims to: (a) increase awareness among policy makers, programme planners and managers and community leaders so as to institutionalize the rights of the children and women through legislation, policies and programmes; (b) develop the technical and organizational skills of relevant ministries and NGOs to plan and implement projects benefiting children and women; (c) assist the Palestinian Authority in identifying underserved areas and children and women in need of special protection, in order to promote equity and improve quality of basic services; and (d) sustain the demonstrated willingness of the Palestinian Authority to prioritize social sector development.

44. The programme for advocacy and capacity-building will consist of two projects: (a) planning, policy formulation and monitoring; and (b) children and women in need of special protection. The objective of the programme is to

develop and sustain the capacity of relevant ministries and institutions to plan for children and women and monitor their status. Advocacy and technical support will promote the development of a legal and policy framework that will include children's and women's rights, particularly those in need of special protection. UNICEF will assist the Secretariat for Children, the High Council for Children and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in monitoring the NPA goals through support to studies and surveys. The programme will also support capacity-building for the media, including training of journalists and support to production of communication material, paying attention to gender sensitivity and children and women in difficult situations. Training will be provided to the Ministry of Health and NGOs in contingency planning and emergency health preparedness. The Child-Friendly Community Initiative, using an integrated area-focused approach at the community level, will promote equity of interventions for children, subject to availability of supplementary funds.

45. The programme will focus on female heads of household, working children, children with disabilities, orphans and children and women who are victims of abuse and violence. Awareness-raising will address the need to reduce discrimination against girls and women through advocacy, seminars, assessments, training of decision makers in gender mainstreaming and special protection and rehabilitation measures for disadvantaged groups. The programme will support the development of a safety net for assisting the most vulnerable women and children. It will provide assistance to the Ministry of Social Affairs and NGOs to establish a system to care and provide counseling services to orphans and socially disadvantaged children, with the support of the Government of Sweden.

46. Within the framework of the Palestinian National Health Plan, the health and nutrition programme will help to sustain and improve the health care system for children, adolescents and women and enable adolescents and women to make informed health decisions. To sustain already low child mortality and morbidity levels, technical, financial and supply support will be provided for immunization, CDD and ARI control, under the child health promotion project. This project will also include a school health education component involving the production of gender-sensitive health education materials and training of health service providers and school teachers, subject to the availability of supplementary funds. The project will also support the Ministry of Education in integrating health education into the school curriculum. The nutrition project will emphasize control of IDD and other micronutrient deficiencies, in addition to breast-feeding promotion. The universal iodization of salt will be advocated and supported. Advocacy and support will be continued for implementing the International Code of Marketing for Breast-milk Substitutes and the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative in 12 targeted hospitals.

47. The women's health project will enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Health to improve pre- and post-natal care, safe motherhood and professional midwifery practice through training, development of educational materials and networking with the private sector and NGOs. With support from the Government of Italy, UNICEF will continue to support the health services management project for streamlining standards, procedures and organizational structure as well as the development of health information systems. Promotion of human resource development, training and material development, monitoring and evaluation and building institutional and professional links with other projects, universities and agencies will be fostered.

48. Through the basic education programme, UNICEF will support the goal of Education For All, giving priority to the enrolment and retention of all children in primary education and focusing on quality, gender equality and provision of educational opportunities for out-of-school children. The project

on quality, relevance and equity of primary education will provide technical and financial assistance to promote a five-year master plan of education. The Education Management Information System and school mapping projects will aim to improve the efficiency and equity of educational services, subject to the availability of supplementary funds. Education for children with special needs and gender equity will be emphasized through advocacy and training of policy makers and educators. UNICEF will contribute to the improvement of learning achievements and quality by providing advocacy, technical and financial assistance to expand the Global Education Initiative, supporting training of trainers and the production of learning materials.

49. The project on community education for young children, adolescents and youth will support ECD through training and technical support on policy development to relevant ministries. With the availability of supplementary funds, the ongoing Better Parenting Initiative will be expanded to preschools, youth centres and disability centres at the community level. The Ministries of Education, Social Affairs, Youth and Sports, NGOs and the media will receive support for a campaign on better parenting and life skills, targeting adolescents and youth with information on child care, STDs, family planning and healthy behaviours. It will also include health education on prevention of disabilities, gender issues, child-bearing, early marriage, consanguinity and healthy lifestyles.

50. UNICEF will continue to coordinate with other United Nations agencies and the World Bank under the Local Aid Coordination Structure, through the United Nations Special Coordinator's Office. In coordination with UNESCO, UNICEF will serve as the secretariat for the Education Sector Working Group and promote the Education for All goal. Other specific areas of inter-agency cooperation will be human development, poverty alleviation and area-based development activities with UNDP; gender equity and mainstreaming with UNIFEM; child labour with the International Labour Organisation; social safety nets with the World Food Programme, in order to reach the most vulnerable; health system development, PHC services and micronutrients with UNRWA and WHO; child rights with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights; and social sector capacity-building with the World Bank.

51. The office for West Bank and Gaza, located in Jerusalem, and the Gaza project office are expanding their activities to meet the demands of the new programme. An appropriate staffing structure, strengthened by training and orientation on rights-based programming, information resources management, monitoring skills and team-building will enable the office to meet the challenges of programme implementation in a complex environment. The country management team will ensure that UNICEF objectives are met with efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Progress will be monitored regularly using the Programme Manager System and through annual plans of actions, rapid assessments, evaluations, annual reviews and a mid-term review. Review of work processes, self-assessment and risk analysis will be ongoing activities, aimed at continuous improvement in programme delivery in line with the Management Excellence Programme.

TABLE a/

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

COUNTRY : PALESTINIAN CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA
PROGRAMME : 1998-2000

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET				POSTS b/										STAFF COSTS c/		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
GENERAL RESOURCES :																	
HEALTH & NUTRITION	660,000			660,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	325,877	325,877
BASIC EDUCATION	690,000			690,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	184,184	184,184
ADVOCACY & CAPACITY-BUILDING	540,000			540,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CROSS-SECTORAL COSTS	660,000			660,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	367,615	184,184	551,799
TOTAL GR	2,550,000			2,550,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	1	5	367,615	694,245	1,061,860
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING :																	
HEALTH & NUTRITION		0	6,000,000	6,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	161,544	161,544
BASIC EDUCATION		0	3,000,000	3,000,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	250,935	250,935
ADVOCACY & CAPACITY-BUILDING		0	2,400,000	2,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	250,935	250,935
CROSS-SECTORAL COSTS		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SF		0	11,400,000	11,400,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5	0	663,414	663,414
TOTAL GR & SF	2,550,000	0	11,400,000	13,950,000	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	5	10	367,615	1,357,659	1,725,274
SUPPORT BUDGET		Operating costs		509,761													
		Staffing			0	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	4	7	831,083	809,341	1,640,424
GRAND TOTAL (GR + SF + SB)					0	0	1	1	1	0	3	5	9	17	1,198,698	2,167,000	3,365,698
	Number of posts and staff costs:																
	Current programme cycle										3	4	6	13			
	At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)										3	5	9	17	1,198,698	2,167,000	3,365,698

GR = general resources.
SF = supplementary funding.
FSF = funded supplementary funding.
NSF = new supplementary funding.

IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
SB = support budget.

a/ This table provides information about the programme for Palestinian children and women in the West Bank and Gaza. The information on the programme for Palestinian children and women in Jordan is contained in the country programme recommendation for Jordan (E/ICEF/1997/P/L.10/Add.1). The information on Palestinian children and women in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic was included in the most recent country programme recommendations for those countries (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.36/Add.1 and E/ICEF/1995/P/L.24, respectively).

b/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.

c/ Excludes temporary assistance and overtime.